I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited in the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231-0001 on March _____, 1999.

sa A. Harbin

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:

Michael Houghton et al.

Serial No.:

08/441,443

Filed:

May 15, 1995

Group: Examiner: M. Zeman

For:

NANBV DIAGNOSTICS

AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

This amendment is responsive to the Office Action, mailed September 1, 1998, in the subject application with a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on December 1, 1998. Accordingly, a petition for a three-month extension of time to respond to the Office Action is requested, and the fee therefor accompanies this response. Reconsideration of the subject application in light of the following amendments and remarks is respectfully requested.